(c) the role of officials of the Forest Department to check the theft of medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The export consignment of medicinal, plants, even if declared by their local names, are subjected to preshipment examination by the Customs and Wildlife authorities since April, 1, 1994 when the ban was imposed. Export of 6 species listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was banned earlier. Preshipment inspection is carried out to ensure that only the permitted species are exported and that all necessary documentation has been produced.

Children working in brackish water

8324. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted with regard to the children working in brackish water for Prawn seed thereby suffering from gastro-enteritis, skin diseases, week eye-sight and back pain; and

(b) if so, what preventive measures have been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Shortage of cement in Latur for reconstruction

8325. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Asian Age' dated the 7th March 1995 under the heading 'Cement shortage hampers Laur reconstruction';

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the required quantity of cement has since been made available; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the entire construction work would be over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) According to the information received from the State Government of Maharashtra, shortage of Cement was experienced in the month of February, 1995. Thereafter, a meeting of all major cement manufacturers was called by the State Government on 8th March, 1995 in which regular supply of cement was assured. As a result of this, sufficient quantity of cement is being received and as of now there is no shortage of cement. During the period 15th March to 9th May, 1995, 2348 M.T. of cement was received for Latur district. The work of reconstruction of houses in relocated and non-relocated villages, will be completed by 30th June, 1997, as per the loan agreement signed with the World Bank authorities.

Un-chlorinated Water Supply in IARI

8326. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Water Supply in Chiria Colony of IARI, Pusa, New Delhi through tubewells maintained by the CPWD is not chlorinated which has led to a sudden spurt in Gastro-enteritis cases in these places;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) & (b) Water is being supplied to the Chiria Colony which is one of the residential

colony in IARI from two sources, one from Municipal Corporation of Delhi and other from Tubewell, which is stored in the underground tank and after it is chlorinated, water is being supplied for use in IARI. The water supply plant as well as Chlorination plant is being maintained by C.P.W.D. The CPWD has confirmed that two out of the three chlorinated plants were activated on 1-5-95, simultaneously chlorine was added in the underground water tank. The 3rd plant was also made functional on 3-5-95.

(c) CPWD have ensured regular testing of water and to take corrective measures on the basis of test report so obtained. In addition to the measures taken by CPWD to ensure that water is potable, IARI has also started getting the Water tested at regular intervals through its own sources. CPWD have also been requested to check up all the pipelines going from plants to various places in IARI.

Scope for the expansion of dairying

8327. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the expansion of dairying in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to undertake any long term measure to promote dairying; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Dairying has been receiving increasing attention in Government's development programmes. With the main objective of developing a viable and self-sustaining dairy industry two major programmes are under implementation namely the Operation Flood Programme and the Integrated Dairy Development Programme in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

Prawn culture in Orissa

8328. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the total areas earmarked in the coastal Orissa for prawn culture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): In coastal Orissa, an estimated brackishwater area of about 32,000 hectare is available for shrimp farming. Out of this, presently about 11,500 hectare is under shrimp farming.

Meeting of Officials of State Irrigated Areas

8329. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some meeting of Secretaries and Chairmen of State Irrigated Areas has been organised in recent past at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(c) whether the meeting was participated by officials of the Central Government;

(d) whether some suggestions, like training of people, involvement of beneficiaries and N.G.Os in applying the new techniques of drip irrigation for horticulture crops and sprinkler for all types of crops, were made in the meeting;

(e) whether Government propose to draw some programme in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A meeting of concerned Secretaries of Command Area Development Departments and Chairman of Command Area Development Authorities was held on 12th May, 1995 in Delhi primarily to take stock of the situation in command areas with a view to improve agricultural production and productivity and to supplement the efforts of Ministry of